

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 AEC-11 ISO-00 MC-02 DRC-01 ACDA-19 SPC-03 /074 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 591

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 23934

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UR, GW, FR

SUBJECT: TOLL ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM

REF: A. COCOM DOC. (73) DEF. AEL 1/1

B. STATE 178782

C. COCOM DOC. (73) 1627

D. COCOM DOC. (73) PROC. 18 (STATE 178783)

SUMMARY: FRENCH PROPOSAL TO EXEMPT DEPLETED URANIUM FROM EMBARGO FELL TO US OBJECTION. HOWEVER, FRENCH ARE OPPOSED TO US PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL PROCEDURE FOR TOLL ENRICHMENT IN USSR. THAT PROPOSAL WILL BE DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE OCTOBER 9.

1. AT SEPT 11 COCOM MEETING FRENCH PROPOSAL REF A WAS NOT APPROVED OWING TO US OBJECTION. USDEL READ INTO RECORD STATEMENT REF B COUNTERING FRENCH ARGUMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF DEPLETED URANIUM FROM EMBARGO. FRENCH DEL, ASSISTED BY TWO TECHNICAL EXPERTS, DEFENDED HIS CASE, INSISTING THA FISSIONABLE CONTENT OF U-235 WASTE IS SO LOW IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO UPGRADE. FRENCH COULD NOT SEE WHAT BENEFIT SUCH MATERIAL COULD GIVE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

2. UK AND GERDELS AGREED TO FRENCH PROPOSAL. JAPANESE, WHILE RESERVING HIS POSITION PENDING COMPLETION OF HIS
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AUTHORITIES' STUDY, WAS ABLE TO STATE THAT THEY LEANED TOWARD

LEAVING DEPLETED URANIUM UNDER EMBARGO SINCE IT COULD BE UPGRADED AND, IN FAST REACTORS, COULD PRODUCE PLUTONIUM; BUT HE WANTED TO HEAR OTHER PCS' VIEWS. BELGIAN WOULD FOLLOW MAJORITY. CANADIAN WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. ITALIANS (ALSO CITED IN REF C) AND DUTCH REPS ABSENT.

3. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF PROCEDURE TO BE APPLIED TO ENRICHMENT PROCESS, AND GERMAN STATEMENT IN REF C CAME UP. IF, ARGUED FRENCH DEL, ALL URANIUM INVOLVED IN TOLL ENRICHMENT IS RETURNED TO EXPORTING COUNTRY, INCLUDING TAILS, THEN THERE HAS BEEN ONLY A TEMPORARY EXPORT WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE COCOM AUTHORIZATION AND TO WHICH, THEREFORE, EXISTING COCOM PROCEDURES DO NOT APPLY.

4. GERMAN DEL, HOWEVER, ANNOUNCED THAT, SINCE HIS PROPOSAL IN REF C WAS EVIDENTLY BASED IN PART ON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GENERAL ELECTRIC TOLL ENRICHMENT TRANSACTION, AS STATED BY US IN REF D, HIS AUTHORITIES HAD REVERSED THEMSELVES AND WERE NOW PREPARED TO SUBMIT TRANSACTIONS SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN DOC. (73) 1627 TO THE COMMITTEE AS EXCEPTION REQUEST AND FURTHERMORE, TO BRING BACK THE TAILS. HE WILL AMEND DOC. (73) 1627 ACCORDINGLY AND IT WILL BE PUT ON AGENDA AS EXCEPTION REQUEST. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES, MOREOVER, WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE US PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL PROCEDURE.

5. US PROPOSAL, AS EXPRESSED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REF D, WAS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF FRENCH DEL'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO SUBMITTING ENRICHMENT TRANSACTIONS TO COCOM, USEL WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FURTHER ARGUMENTS TO BUTTRESS OUR POSITION IN TIME FOR OCTOBER 9 DISCUSSION. EARLY RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL ON EXPORTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM FOR NON-NUCLEAR PURPOSES (PARA 6, REF B) WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL, AS WOULD FURTHER DETAILS OF "STRATEGIC VALUE" (MENTIONED PARA 3 REF B) OF DEPLETED URANIUM.

7. DEPT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AND RELATED TRAFFIC TO BONN AND USEC.ROGERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Executive Order: X1 ROGERS
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